

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 9019 – SB 9056

October 28, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the *Tennessee Religious Objection to COVID-19 Treatment Act*. Prohibits a person, as defined in this legislation, from restricting an individual from exercising a religious objection to a treatment for COVID-19. Stipulates various legal rights, liabilities, and remedies for the parties involved in any violations of the laws established herein.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Based on information provided by the Department of Education, the use of “medical care” in the definition of “treatment for COVID-19” is interpreted to necessitate specialized services provided by a specialized provider, and thus does not apply to mitigation efforts such as mask wearing, social distancing, or contact tracing. As such, it is assumed that the language of this legislation does not conflict with the requirements of the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, or jeopardize the funds provided by it.
- Prohibiting a person from restricting an individual from exercising a religious objection to a treatment for COVID-19 will not create any additional costs to the state of Tennessee or local governments.
- Any additional workload on the court system resulting from the proposed legislation will be accommodated utilizing existing resources.
- Any fiscal impact to state or local governments is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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